

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Larson Manufacturing Co

Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Lean Sessions Reposition Larson Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Larson Manufacturing, located in Lake Mills, Iowa, is a leading manufacturer of residential storm doors. It has used solid manufacturing practices to build high quality residential storm doors efficiently for almost 50 years. Larson Manufacturing has 240 employees.

Situation:

Larson Manufacturing was looking for new and innovative ways to improve their current manufacturing methods to maintain their current standing at the top of the marketplace. They needed something to be the focal point of their efforts to formalize their continuous improvement program and help to continue to meet customer demand. The company contacted the Iowa Manufacturing Extension Partnership (IMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

The IMEP and NIACC Business/Industrial Partnership conducted plant-wide training sessions from August 2003 to December 2003. The Lake Mills employees were trained on both the lean 101 and 5S modules of the Lean Journey.

Results:

- * Improved organization of workplace.
- * Reduced labor required in wood core assembly area.
- * Anticipated increase in production.

Testimonial:

"Through implementation of lean and 5S, we have been able to reduce the direct labor required in the wood core assembly area significantly. Keep in mind that this was a work center that we considered to be extremely efficient prior to the implementation. These improvements will allow us to reposition this labor to other areas so we can increase production across the plant and meet the growing customer demand for our products."

Brian Throne, Plant Manager